

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action that has been taken by the Government against those involved in the racket ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) Certain cases of irregularities in the issue of work permits and fleecing of passengers have come to the notice at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

(b) and (c) 170 touts have been arrested by the police in the recent past. Foreigner Regional Registration Officer has taken action to transfer 10 senior inspectors from immigration. Internal vigilance by airlines is also being tightened.

[Translation]

#### Vacant Posts

367. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes lying vacant in Railways;

(b) the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies; and

(c) the number of employees recruited under the special recruitment drives for SCs/STs/OBCs during the last two years, category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as Union of India Vs. J.C. Malik has held that the reservation of jobs for SC/ST/OBCs should apply to the posts and not to the vacancies. The Court further held that the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time as the representation of the persons belonging to the reserved categories, in a cadre, reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation. Thereafter, the roster cannot operate and vacancies released by retirement, resignation, promotion etc., of the persons belonging to the general and the respective reserved categories are to be filled by the appointment of the persons from the respective category so that the prescribed percentage of reservation is maintained.

On the basis of the above principle, the post-based roster both for recruitment and promotion have been constructed and assessment of shortfall of SC/ST/OBCs based on post-based roster is under process.

(c) The following number of persons belonging to SC/ STs had been recruited in the Special Recruitment Drive 1995-1996 (1.4.95 to 31.3.96) and 1996-1997 (15.7.96 to 30.6.97) :

	1995-1996		1996-1997	
Group	SC	ST	SC	ST
'C'	473	445	775	821
'D'	533	1291	1068	1233
Total	1006	1736	1843	2054

The above Special Recruitment Drive had been launched as per the directives of DOP&T. No such Special Recruitment Drive had been launched for the recruitment of Other Backward Classes.

[English]

#### Coverage by DD and AIR

368. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA:  
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate uncovered areas in different States in the country where Doordarshan and AIR net work has not been provided so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to install some more T.V. transmitters and AIR stations to extend Doordarshan and AIR net work in some of those uncovered areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Details of Statewise uncovered areas are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is the constant endeavour of the Govt. to increase and provide radio/TV coverage in hitherto uncovered areas. Various new radio/TV Transmitters are proposed to be set up and powers of Transmitter are proposed to be upgraded during the IX plan, which will improve the coverage in uncovered areas. However, the implementation of these schemes will be subject to the approval by the competent authority, availability of adequate financial resources and other infrastructure facilities.